

Know Your Moving Allowances

Ensuring that you are aware of all your allowances is important and from time to time these allowances change; therefore, keep this official DoD website handy and consult it before you begin to plan your move. The website is the [Per Diem Committee's Travel and Transportation Committee](#). Uniformed members and civilians have different allowances. The Per Diem website has been consolidated with other DoD travel functions into the [Defense Travel Management Office](#) so that you can also research travel and other information related to your move. Below are just a few important allowances to keep in mind:

- [Dislocation Allowance \(DLA\)](#) a one time payment to help defray the costs of your move.
- [Per Diem Allowance](#) for travel days.
- [Allowance](#) for driving.
- [Household Goods Weight estimator](#) to determine if your personal property is within your allowance.

One of the best ways to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses is to set up a budget for your move. Planning a relocation budget is the secret to staying in financial control throughout your move. The [Relocation Budget Planner](#) is an Excel spreadsheet that you can save and use on your PC, or you can print it out as a reference. Follow the easy instructions at the top of the spreadsheet to guide you through the process. A good idea is to take the Budget Planner to your relocation/financial counselor at the Family Center or contact [Military OneSource](#) for professional assistance. Keep your Relocation Budget Planner up-to-date as estimates become actual costs, and as your assumptions change. If you are moving overseas, you will need to keep track of the [currency conversion](#) so that you know what the actual dollars are that you are spending.

You should also [keep track of expenses related to your move](#). If you itemize, you will need a record for tax-deduction reasons, if you itemize. It is a good idea to keep track of your reimbursements, as well. For example, the reimbursement you receive for DITY or personal moves, as they are now called, is considered taxable income.

The [Defense Accounting and Finance Service \(DFAS\) website](#) has complete information on pay and travel benefits for both uniformed and civilian employees.

If you do get into financial trouble, do not forget that your Service has an emergency relief fund which can be accessed on any military installation through the Family Center's Financial Assistance manager. When you visit you can ask about travel advances.

PCS Travel Advances

When making a PCS move, you can request an advance payment of up to 100% of the Dislocation Allowance (DLA), Mileage Allowance In Lieu of Transportation (MALT), and per diem amounts to which you are entitled. Upon arrival, the travel voucher must be filed at your new installation after the move is completed. This money does not have to be repaid, if the proper paperwork is completed. It can go a long way toward paying the initial cost of setting up your household in the new location. Decide if you will need these advances and have a plan for how you will use the money. Please note that not all Services provide advances, ask your Service about advances if you think you will need one.

Advances may typically be requested ten days before signing out of the losing unit. The funds will be deposited into your checking account, so do not close the account when leaving the installation.

If an advance is not requested, allowances will be paid after completing the move, and filing the travel voucher. Payment can take several weeks.

Advance Pay

If absolutely necessary, you can receive an advance of basic pay, overseas housing allowance, and basic allowance for housing when making a PCS move. Keep in mind that all of these advances are simply an interest-free loan and are repaid by deductions from pay. Repayment can create an additional financial burden just after the PCS move, at a time when finances are already stressed. Therefore, the use of advance pay is not encouraged unless circumstances require it.

Advance Basic Pay: is an interest-free loan you can get when you make a permanent change of station move. The collateral is your military salary and you repay advance basic pay in 12 equal installments. Advance Basic Pay is available for both CONUS and OCONUS moves. A member may draw up to 3 months basic pay in advance, interest free. Your base pay and finance offices can provide more details specific to your situation.

Advance Basic Allowance for Housing: is an advance against your normal BAH to help you cope with the costs of rental housing off base. This is available for CONUS and OCONUS moves. For CONUS moves up to 3 months' BAH is available and for OCONUS moves up to 12 months' BAH is available. Note: unit commanders must authorize advances in BAH. Payback requirements are determined by the length of the tour.

Advance Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA): is an advance against any projected OHA to cover the difference between the cost of economy rental housing and the BAH. Except in unusual cases, advances are limited to 12 months OHA. OHA should not exceed one year's allowances.